

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A write protection method for an optical disc recording and/or reproducing apparatus, the method comprising:

 checking write protection information stored in an RMD (Recording Management Data) field of an RMA (Recording Management Area) area to protect data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, the RMA being separate from a lead-in area of the recording medium; and

 prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium according to the write protection information,

 wherein a plurality of identical write protection information is stored in physically separate locations.

2. (Currently Amended) A recording medium satisfying a DVD-R specification to record data, including an entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, the recording medium comprising:

 a Lead-in area;

 a Lead-out area; and

 the user data area,

 wherein write protection state information is recorded and is selectable between write protection states, and

wherein, upon completion of finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area, the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring protection of the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, the write protection state information being stored in an area separate from the Lead-in area of the recording medium.

3. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 1, wherein the recording medium comprises is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

4. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 2, wherein the recording medium comprises is a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.

5. (Currently Amended) A write protection method for a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, wherein for a recording medium satisfying a DVD-R specification, including comprising a Lead-in area, a Lead-out area, and a user data area, has comprises write protection state information that is selectable between write protection states, and the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring protection of data, comprising including an entirety of the user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, the write protection state information being stored in an area separate from the Lead-in area of the recording medium, the write protection method comprising:

 checking the state of the recording medium; and
 prohibiting writing of data on the recording medium when the state of the recording medium is a write protection state.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The write protection method of claim 5, wherein the recording medium is positioned in a case of a cartridge comprising having a write inhibit hole for write protection.

8. (Currently Amended) A storage device, comprising:
 a recordable and/or rewritable recording medium including comprising:
 a Lead-in area;
 a Lead-out area; and
 a user data area; and
 a cartridge having comprising a case which configured to receives receive the recording medium;
 wherein the recording medium has comprises write protection state information that is selectable between write protection states, and the recording medium is set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of data, including the entire user data area or at least a plurality of particular data files, recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing,

when the finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, the write protection state information being stored in an area separate from the Lead-in area of the recording medium.

9. (Currently Amended) The storage device of claim 8, wherein the case has comprises a recognition switch for write protection.

10. (Currently Amended) The storage device of claim 8, wherein the case does not comprise have a recognition switch for write protection.

11. (Currently Amended) The storage device of claim 8, wherein the recording medium comprises is a disc, satisfying a DVD-R specification.

12. (Currently Amended) A recordable and/or rewritable recording medium, comprising:

- a Lead-in area;
- a Lead-out area; and
- a user data area,

wherein, upon a finalization for writing on the Lead-in area and the Lead-out area has been completed, the recording medium is configured to be set to a write protection state ensuring the protection of data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, with a plurality of identical write protection information being stored in a plurality of locations in the Lead-in area, and

wherein the recording medium is comprises a recording medium satisfying a DVD-R and/or a DVD-RW specification.

13. (Currently Amended) A recording medium to record data, comprising:

- a user data area; and
- an information area having write protection information;

wherein the recording medium is configured to store at least two write protection information in RMD (Recording Management Data) fields of an RMA (Recording Management

Area) area, at the same time, to protect the data recorded on the recording medium from unwanted overwriting or erasing, the RMA being separate from a lead-in area of the recording medium.

14. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium is further configured to satisfy a DVD-RW (digital Versatile Disc Rewritable) specification.

15. (Previously Presented) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the write protection information is stored in physically separate locations at a plurality of times.

16. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 15, wherein the recording medium is further configured to indicate a write protection state when writing protection information from one of the plurality of physically separate locations matches writing protection information read from another one of the physically separate locations.

17. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium further comprises a recording information area, distinct from the Lead-in area, the Lead-out area, and the user data area, and including comprising RMD fields, wherein the RMD fields being configured to store information indicative of pre-use certification and defect management in use.

18. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein:
the RMD fields are grouped; and
the same write protection information is stored in the RMD fields belonging to the same group.

19. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein:
the write protection information is stored in a byte position BP3 of RMD field 0; and

information indicative of types of recording medium, indicating whether the recording medium satisfies the DVD-RW specification, is stored in byte positions BPO and BP1 of the RMD field 0.

20. (Currently Amended) The recording medium of claim 13, wherein the recording medium ~~is-comprises~~ a bare disc not contained in a case of a cartridge.